

Smoke Testing - Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the purpose of smoke testing?

Smoke testing is a cost effective method to find possible defects and faulty connections where excess rain water (Inflow) and ground water (Infiltration) can enter the sanitary sewer system, negatively effecting it's economical and safe functioning.

2) What should I do to prepare for smoke testing?

When you receive notice that smoke testing will take place, **you should:**

- **Check to see that all drain traps under basins, washing facilities and floor drains have water in them. To do so, simply flush toilets and run or pour water (about 1 gallon) into all drains including unused fixtures and floor drains.**
- **If there is an individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and/or mobility limitations, contact the Sewer Utility at (651) 266-6171 before April 8, 2009.**

3) Is the smoke harmful?

No. It may make you cough, but it is not harmful to your health and will not harm clothing, drapes, or furniture. When possible please avoid unnecessary exposure to simulated smoke.

4) Do I have to be home during testing?

No. Inspection crews will not need to enter your home.

5) What should I do if smoke gets into the house?

- **Do Not Become Alarmed.**
- Open windows to allow ventilation and note the location of the smoke emission. The smoke will clear within a few minutes.
- Contact the Smoke Testing Crew Chief, at (651) 238-0572.

6) I will not be home during testing, and I have pets in the house. What should I do?

The smoke is not harmful to pets, but it would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter the building. If you have proper plumbing connections and all of the drain traps have water in them, there should not be any problems.

7) What does it mean if smoke enters a building?

If smoke enters a building during the test, it probably means there are deficiencies in the plumbing that may be allowing potentially dangerous sewer gases to enter the building.

8) What happens if the testing finds a bad sewer connection or lack of traps in the building?

This information will be documented by the smoke testing inspection team and given to the Sewer Utility for review.

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